The mission of Genesis Behavioral Health is to provide essential services that promote the emotional and mental health of our communities. Our vision is to be a leading health care provider recognized for its excellence in delivering accessible, quality mental health care and support in our communities.

Our organization experienced tremendous growth over the past year, both in direct services to patients and in expanding community partnerships. Despite the challenges encountered as we navigated our first year of Medicaid Managed Care, we are proud of our accomplishments. As we look to our vision for the future of mental health care, we will continue to focus on a medical model that recognizes and treats the complex health needs of our patients and provides resources for innovative, state-of-the-art care. We hope you will join us on this journey, for we need the support of our community to move forward.
“Our 45 year old son has lived with a severe mental illness all of his adult life. Over the years he has had multiple occasions where he has injured himself to the point of permanent scarring and damage. Just last spring we thought, after two back-to-back instances of dangerous self-harm, that he would have to move into a residence with 24-hour supervision. This was something he absolutely did not want, but which we thought had become unavoidable if he was to be kept safe and alive. It was the nadir of the 25 year battle with his illness for us all.

Just as we reached that critical point, the State budget, with increased funding for essential mental health services, went into effect. Included in that budget was funding for Genesis Behavioral Health to implement an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. The new Genesis ACT Team moved quickly, visiting our son in his apartment twice a day, assisting him with activities of daily living, helping him engage in community-based activities, and ensuring he was able to maintain his health.

As a result of the efforts of the ACT Team, not only is our son able to safely live in his own apartment in the community without hurting himself, but the quality of his life has improved dramatically. For the first time in years, he is experiencing joy in living.

The future remains, of course, unpredictable. However, one year ago we could not have even hoped for, let alone predicted, he would be living a life in the community today – and truly enjoying it.

We are so very grateful for this funding and to the staff at Genesis for bringing joy back into his life – and hope to his family.”

The students are fixated on their work, lost in their own thoughts and reflections. The creativity and energy in the air is palpable as artwork is created and imaginations are released. For youth struggling with mental, emotional, or behavioral health issues, this time is a much-needed refuge.

This studio is The Arts Collaborative in Meredith and the teacher is artist Heidi Little. For over a year, children and staff from Genesis Behavioral Health have come to Heidi’s studio to immerse themselves in the curative power of art. After noting the success of the weekly sessions and observing the impact of art on the participants, GBH and The Arts Collaborative decided to partner on enrichment projects to augment the work already happening. In 2014, GBH received a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts to develop “Transformations,” a multi-day workshop, in partnership with The Arts Collaborative.

“I believe that artworks have the amazing potential to be metaphors for meaningful thoughts and feelings that are consciously or sub-consciously expressed by their creators,” stated Heidi Little, “The completed work also provides a symbolic, non-verbal means of communication for the observer. The results are powerful expressions of self-disclosure and discovery.”

“You only have to see the program in action to believe it,” said Kristen Welch, Director of Development and Communications at Genesis Behavioral Health, “The use of art in healing has so many positive outcomes, such as reduced symptoms, improved coping skills, engagement in a community activity, and the development of a sense of accomplishment. The smiles and pride on the faces of the youth who visit Heidi’s studio each week are a testament to the importance of art to recovery.”
Genesis Behavioral Health has always recognized the importance of community partnerships and collaboration across agencies to meet the needs of the community. When the Laconia School District was awarded a $2.2 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to improve the mental and behavioral health of children by reducing school violence, bullying, substance abuse, and other disciplinary problems, GBH was pleased to offer its services and pledged its support as a partner in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative.

Over the years, GBH has found that providing strictly office-based services is often a barrier to good customer service. Providing community-based services within a setting such as the school or primary care office is an excellent way to improve access to care for children and their families. Offering mental health services in a school setting helps the child and family access essential services that improve emotional and mental health within a convenient location. Integrated, school-based services are more accessible for children and their families, and promote good communication and collaboration between the community mental health center, school district, and other community partners.

“This grant is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen and expand our existing partnership with the Laconia School District,” noted Charlotte Hassett, LCMHC, Director of Children & Family Services at Genesis Behavioral Health, “As the community mental health center, GBH plays a critical role in ensuring the success of our students and supporting children and their families in a setting that promotes recovery and wellness. We look forward to working with Laconia and the other grant partners over the next four years to improve the mental health of the students and our communities.”
After years of planning, the collaborative efforts of LRGHealthcare, Genesis Behavioral Health, and the New Hampshire Bureau of Behavioral Health produced 10 new, community-based inpatient beds, known as the DRF (Designated Receiving Facility) at Franklin Regional Hospital (FRH).

A DRF is a type of unit that can accept patients who can be admitted involuntarily. Community-based DRFs, such as the one at FRH, are considered less restrictive than the state hospital, because hospital-based programs often allow patients to stay closer to their family, friends, and providers. The unit at Franklin, which opened in October 2013, is equipped for 10 patients and employs approximately 25 staff, including round the clock security. The average daily census runs between 7 or 8 patients.

“The transition from planning to implementation was virtually seamless,” noted Vladimir Jelnov, MD, Medical Director for Genesis Behavioral Health, who provides medical services and support to the DRF, “Together, Genesis, the team at the DRF, and LRGHealthcare worked together to ensure a timely opening of the facility. We look forward to an ongoing partnership to meet the needs of the community.”

The unit is intended to ease some of the pressure on hospitals, which contend frequently with “psych boarders,” patients requiring immediate care who are housed in local emergency rooms awaiting admission to the limited beds at New Hampshire Hospital.

Maggie Pritchard, Executive Director of Genesis Behavioral Health, notes that this opportunity could not have come at a more critical time. “Our communities, especially those north of Concord, are in dire need of additional capacity to safely manage psychiatric emergencies. The DRF is a much-needed resource for a healthy community, and is a stellar example of our organizations working together to improve health outcomes for the region.”
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